



Internal Services Agency

Department of Finance

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECURED PROPERTY TAX BILLS MAILED THIS MONTH

Sacramento, Calif. — The new tax year has started and Sacramento County has mailed about 450,000 secured property tax bills which are payable beginning November 1, 2009. These tax bills are mailed only once a year; however, property owners may pay their bills in two installment payments. The first installment payment **must** be received or postmarked **no later than 5 p.m. on December 10, 2009**. Because April 10, 2010, is a Saturday this year, the **second** installment **must** be received or postmarked **no later than 5 p.m. on April 12, 2010**. Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due.

The assessed values of over 170,000 properties were reduced by the county Assessor's Office, reflecting an overall decline in residential real estate prices in recent years.

By law, the assessed values on the 2009-10 annual **tax bills are based on property values as of January 1, 2009**. Any declines in value after January 1, 2009 will not be reflected until the 2010-11 tax bill. If a taxpayer has evidence that their property value as of January 1, 2009, is less than that shown on this year's bill, they should visit the Assessor's website (www.assessor.saccounty.net), call the Assessor's Office at (916) 875-0455, or go in person to 3701 Power Inn Road, Suite 3000.

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Sacramento County offers an online subscription service, and people that sign up for subscriptions will receive e-mail notifications when the annual secured property tax bills are available each year and reminders before the first and second installment delinquent dates. The subscription service is located under Online Services on the Sacramento County home page at www.saccounty.net.

Taxpayers may obtain current year tax bill information, direct levy information and delinquent prior year tax information and amounts due through the Internet at www.eproptax.saccounty.net, using their 14-digit parcel number.

Online payment services provided through our website include payments via credit card or electronic check. Taxpayers may print tax bill installment payment stubs to mail in with their payments. Taxpayers may also pay by credit card or electronic check over the telephone at 1-888-877-3575.

Sacramento County also has a convenient 24-hour/7-day-a-week Automated Property Tax Information Line that gives callers information on a variety of tax subjects, access to detailed billing and payment information, as well as specific informational messages for each direct levy on their tax bill. You can reach the system and tax specialists by calling (916) 874-6622. Tax specialists are available by telephone, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by pressing "0" at various points during the automated process. If busy, the system will offer the caller the option of leaving a voice mail message for tax staff.

Payments may be made in person at the Sacramento County Tax Collector's Office at 700 H Street, Room 1710, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or mailed to P.O. Box 508, Sacramento, CA 95812-0508. When paying by check, you authorize the County to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. Remember, be sure to mail your payment early enough to ensure a timely postmark and avoid penalties.

If you own property and do not receive a tax bill by November 10, 2009, you may obtain tax bill information and print payment stubs (coupons) at the Tax Collector's website at www.eproptax.saccounty.net, over the automated telephone system or by contacting the Tax Collector's Office at (916) 874-6622. ***Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of the liability to pay taxes in a timely manner or give the Tax Collector reason to cancel penalties imposed for late payment.***

Even if your tax bill is being paid by a lending institution (mortgage company), state law requires that a copy of the tax bill be sent to the property owner. Therefore, all property owners should receive either the original tax bill or an "Owner's Information Copy."

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